

setting a printing condition according to the output control data;
printing an image on a print medium based on the image data according to
the printing condition; and
stapling the print medium with a finisher according to the output control
data.

B
13. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising a step of storing information
of functions of the printer and the finisher into a removable storage medium so that the
information can be used by external equipment for generating output control data.

REMARKS

This application is a Continuation of application Serial No. 08/719,796, filed on September 25, 1996. Please amend this application as above. Claims 31-47 are pending.

Claims 31-38 and 39-47 correspond to claims 1-8 and 22-30 of the parent application, respectively, but are directed to a printer rather than a copier. As claims 1-8 and 22-30 were considered allowable in the parent application, it is believed that the present claims 31-47 should be allowable. A Terminal Disclaimer over the parent case is provided below in the interests of advancing prosecution. A check in the amount of \$110 is filed herewith for the disclaimer fee.

Any additional fees can be charged to Deposit Account 13-2725.

Terminal Disclaimer

Petitioner, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., the owner of the entire right, title and interest in the present application and parent application U.S. Serial No. 08/719,796 filed on September 25, 1996, by virtue of Assignment recorded at Reel 8219, Frame 0912, through the undersigned attorney of record, hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the above-identified application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of the patent to issue from U.S. Serial No. 08/719,796 filed on September 25, 1996 and hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the above-identified application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that the legal title to said patent shall be the same as the legal title to the patent to issue from U.S. Serial No.

08/719,796 filed on September 25, 1996, this agreement to run with any patent granted on the above-identified application and to be binding upon the grantee, its successors, or assigns.

In making the above disclaimer, Petitioner does not disclaim the terminal part of any patent granted on the above-identified application that would extend to the full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer of the patent to issue from U.S. Serial No. 08/719,796 filed on September 25, 1996 in the event that any such issued patent: expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee, is held unenforceable, is found invalid, is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321(a), has all claims cancelled by a reexamination certification, or is otherwise terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer, except for the separation of legal title stated above.

Early and favorable action on this application in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (612) 371-5237 in order to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612/332-5300

By 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/VW

Date: July 25, 2000